

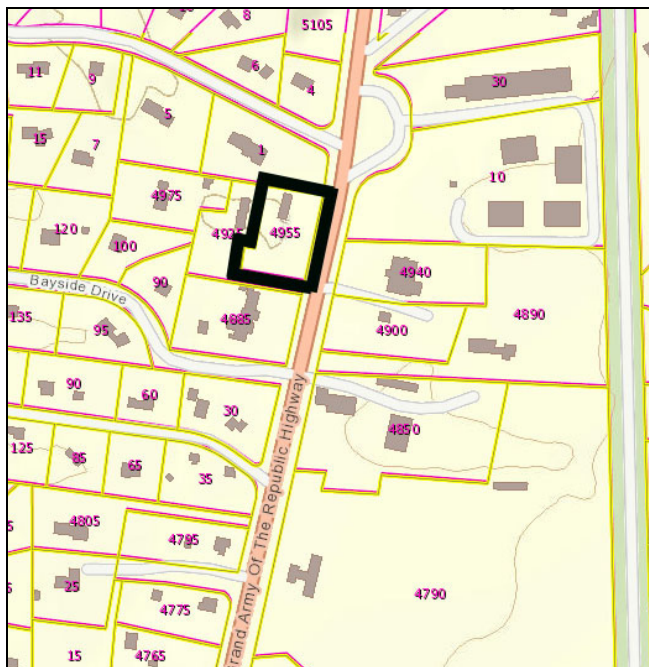
# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Larson Fisher Associates with Kathryn Grover

**Organization:** Eastham Historical Commission

**Date:** May 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

5-162B

ORLEANS

EAS.731

**Town/City:** Town of Eastham

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): North Eastham

**Address:** 4955 State Highway

**Historic Name:** Russell D. & Mary S. Wiley House

**Uses:** Present: vacant (multi-family residence)

Original: single-family residence

**Date of Construction:** 1890

**Source:** deeds, historic maps, visual analysis

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone & concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): front porch altered; front door moved; conversion to three-family; sunporch addition (dates unknown)

**Condition:** poor

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.69

**Setting:** The subject property is located on the west side of State Highway. Single family residential properties lies adjacent to it on the north and west, but east across the highway is the Captain's Quarters Motel and the adjoining lot to the south is a B&B/spa—The Penny House.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

4955 STATE HIGHWAY

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The two-story wood frame building is currently vacant and under renovation per a building permit issued in 2007.<sup>1</sup> The building was converted to a three-family dwelling at some point and this accounts for its atypical appearance, most notably the location of the front entry at the far northern edge of the front facade (facing east), which is clearly an alteration. A shallow porch across the narrow end (north facade) wraps around that southeast corner of the building to shelter the entry and appears to originally have wrapped around to the west side as well. This suggests that the front gable form was original and the narrow gable end facing north was actually the front facade. This conclusion is strengthened by the presence of a two-story faceted bay window on the long three-bay east facade that is topped by a pediment. The main house is clad with wood clapboard siding on its north, east and south sides with wood shingles on its west facade. It is distinguished by corner pilasters and molded eaves and eave returns. The gable roof is currently sheathed with asphalt shingles; there is a small brick center chimney.<sup>2</sup> A one-story rear ell with hipped roof (off the south side) appears to have started as a service/kitchen wing for the house, but was enlarged to its present ungainly dimensions, with a sunporch on the south. (The addition is revealed by the concrete block foundation under that section.) A number of the windows are boarded up; some windows have been altered to create entry doors for the separate apartments; some early six-over-six wood windows are still intact. A wood deck was added on the west side in 2007 and an exterior wood stairway rebuilt (see footnote 1).

The house is set well back from the highway right of way and there are overgrown shrubs along the property boundaries. A wood privacy fence runs along a portion of the north boundary. Two cast stone entry piers are located at the northeast corner of the property where an unimproved driveway off State Highway enters. An accessory building on the property to the west of the house was demolished when the property was subdivided in 1986 (see site plan, below). The southern portion of the lot is heavily wooded with mature deciduous trees. There has been a loss of a number of trees recently.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Town records indicate that the house at 4955 State Highway was built in 1890, which appears to be an appropriate date from visual analysis. The house occupies land that had been owned by Eastham's Horton family since at least 1800. Deeds indicate that a store, with its upper story used as a dwelling was in this area in 1877. In that year Isaiah Holbrook Horton Jr. (1835-1903) deeded to his widowed stepmother Louisa Doane Horton (1818-98) an acre of the land owned by her late husband Isaiah Holbrook Horton Sr. (1814-74) on the west side of State Highway. In 1885 she in turn deeded it to her married daughter Mary Louise, who in 1880 had married George William Mitchell, a native of England who worked as a telegraph operator in Eastham and had boarded in the Horton house. By 1889 the Mitchells had moved to Nova Scotia, and sold the property to Gloucester Net and Twine Company of Boston, which may have razed or relocated that building. But in November 1890 that company sold the parcel to Mary S. Wiley.<sup>3</sup> Thus it is most probable that the Wileys built the house at 4955 State Highway.

Born in Dover, New Hampshire, about 1855, Mary Smith Wiley was the wife of Russell Davis Wiley (1843-1920), the son of David and Thankful Wiley and a native of South Wellfleet. In 1880 he was living in his parents' household and working as a sailor, and five years later he married Mary S. Smith, a teacher, in Dover. In 1888 their son George Russell Wiley was born in Eastham. The 1900 census shows Russell D. Wiley as a farmer living in a State Highway household with his wife and son. Tax records for 1902 show him as owned a house valued at \$650, a barn, a henhouse, some livestock, and seven acres of land, including his one-acre homestead lot.

Russell Wiley died in 1920, and tax records for 1926 show his wife with the one-acre homestead, house, barn, and poultry house. By then her son George had married Susan Foster Nickerson of Eastham and was living nearby on State Highway. The 1930 census shows Mary S. Wiley as a seventy-eight-year-old widow living in a house she owned on State Highway together with Charles Lee, a farm worker boarding there. She died in 1934, and the 4955 State Highway property passed to her son George, who by then was working for Wellfleet Market as an order and delivery man.

In 1940 George Wiley sold 4955 State Highway to Reuben W. Horton of Reading, who sold it a few days later to William Bradley Steele Jr. (1899-1977). Steele was the son of North Eastham farmer William Bradford Steele (1855-1951), a native of Harwich who had moved to North Eastham by 1900, and Blanche Eliza Turner.<sup>4</sup> In addition to farming he worked for many years as a barber. By 1930 William B. Steele Jr. was working as a shell fisherman, and by 1940 he had divorced and was employed on the Cape Cod moth control project.

<sup>1</sup> Town of Eastham records, building permits issued in 2007: July 24 (for second floor deck, replacing exterior stairs and landing to it) and Aug. 2 (replace windows, repair of front porch roof).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., building permit issued Feb. 13, 2001, was for reroofing with asphalt shingles.

<sup>3</sup> I. H. Horton to Louisa Horton, 17 May 1877, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (hereafter cited as BCD) 132:3; Louisa Horton to Mary L. Mitchell, 22 July 1885, BCD 165:222; George William and Mary L. Mitchell to Gloucester Net and Twine Company, 29 September 1890, BCD 190:478; Gloucester Net and Twine Company to Mary S. Wiley, 15 November 1890, BCD 191:288.

<sup>4</sup> George R. Wiley to Reuben W. Horton, 28 February 1940, BCD 563:256; Horton to William Bradley Steele Jr., 1 March 1940, BCD 566:289. The deed shows his name as William Bradley Steele, while town histories show his middle name as Bradford. He was given a gold-headed cane in 1951 for being the oldest person in Eastham; see Marilyn C. Schofield and Roberta Cornish, *Images of America: Eastham* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2003), 103.

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In 1949 Steele sold 4955 State Highway to John and Annabella S. Sturrock of Auburn.<sup>5</sup> John Sturrock was born in Dundee, Scotland, about 1888 and came to the United States aboard the ship *Numidian* from Glasgow in May 1909. He was then working as a carpenter and, according to the passenger list, was bound for Worcester, where his cousin Thomas Sandy lived. In 1910 in that city he married Annabella Sandy, Thomas's daughter, who was born in Scotland about 1889 and worked in Worcester as a quill winder. Sturrock had his own construction and building firm, John Sturrock Company, in Worcester and later in Auburn, and the 1940 census shows his family in Auburn. The couple then had two daughters living at home, Estelle and Isabella, both in their twenties and working as bookkeepers.

Sturrock had begun to buy property in Eastham by 1947, when tax records show him with a half-acre lot with no buildings elsewhere in Eastham. By 1940 he and his wife owned four tracts, including 4955 State Highway and adjacent 4855 State Highway. Three of the four parcels had houses and cottages or both on them. By then the 4955 State Highway house was valued at \$2200.

In 1958 the Sturrocks subdivided 4855 and 4955 State Highway, and in that year sold 4855 to Richard H. and Elizabeth J. Penney; the Penneys acquired 4955 from the Sturrocks in 1965. By 1977 the Penneys had defaulted on their bank mortgage on the property, and in 1986 4955 State Highway had been acquired by Orleans realtors Ralph and Sherry Boas.<sup>6</sup> They further subdivided the 4955 State Highway lot and sold it and a small adjacent parcel to Paul P. Dubois, who was then living at 4955 State Highway. Citizens Bank of Massachusetts foreclosed on the property in 2007 and sold it at auction that year to Terence J. Malone of West Roxbury, the current owner.<sup>7</sup>

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## MAPS

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

<sup>5</sup> William Bradley Steele to John and Annabella S. Sturrock, 15 April 1949, BCD 718:169. The 4955 State Highway property passed between Steele and his father twice—see BCD 638:476 and 643:562—because Steele Jr. was not of age when he bought the property from Horton in 1940.

<sup>6</sup> John and Annabella S. Sturrock to Richard H. and Elizabeth J. Penney, 20 December 1965, BCD 1324:50; Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Banks to Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, 20 January 1977, BCD 2464:141; Michael Rizzo to Ralph and Sherry Boas, 25 April 1986, BCD 5043:68. See also "Plan of Land in Eastham (North) Mass. As Surveyed for John Sturrock et us (Annabella S.)," January 1958, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds Plan (hereafter cited as BCP) 142:9.

<sup>7</sup> Ralph Boas, Leaf Realty Trust, to Paul P. Dubois, 30 September 1999, BCD 12576:198; Citizens Bank of Massachusetts to Terence J. Malone, 30 May 2007, BCD 24382:303. See also "Plan of Division of Land in Eastham, Mass. Prepared for Ralph Boas or Nominee," 18 March 1986, BCP 415:85.



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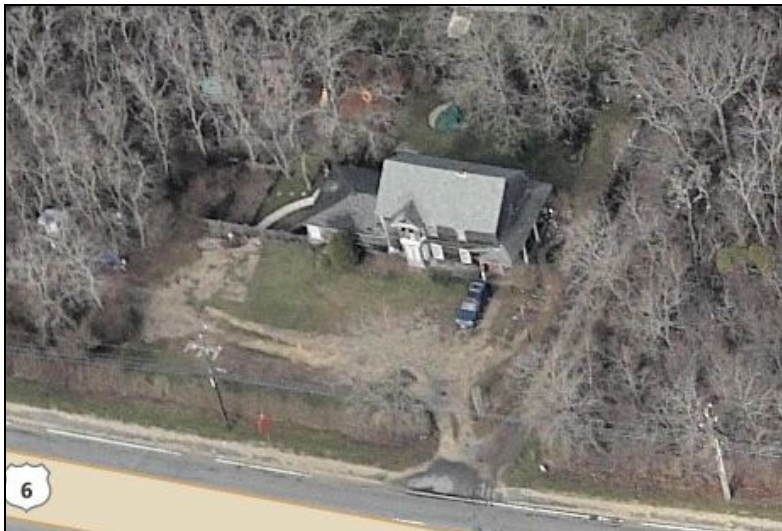
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(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)



View from northeast (photo by Town of Eastham Assessor, c. 2007).



Older aerial photo from east (courtesy of Bing Maps online). Note 3-sided wrap-around porch on north side. View from southeast.



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**View from northwest.**



**View from southwest.**

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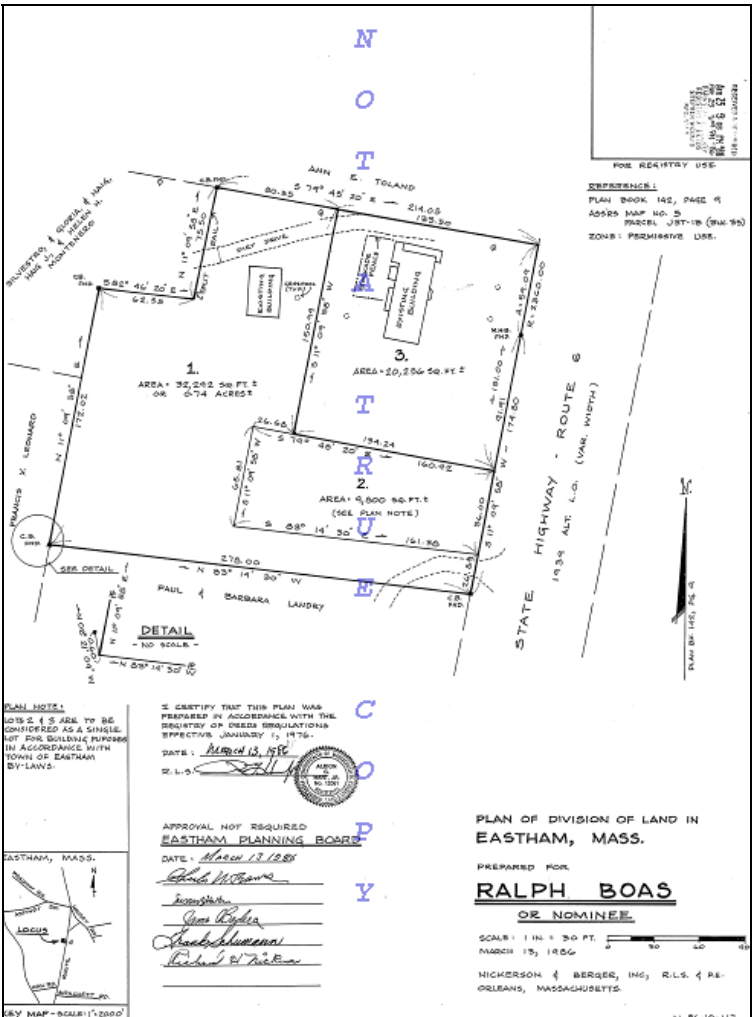
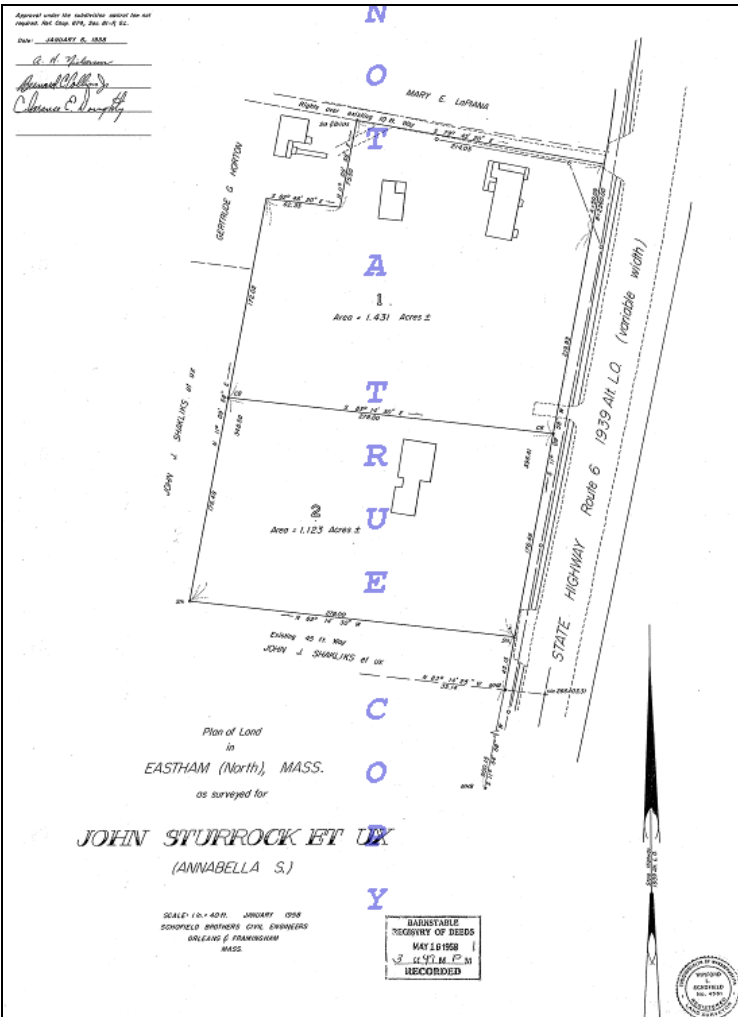
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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



LEFT: Sturrock land plan of 1958; Parcel 1 contains subject property. RIGHT: Boas subdivision of 1986 (BCP 415:85); Parcel 3 is current configuration of subject property.